From: Ed A.
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I have been a computer consultant and programmer for well over ten
years. In that time, I
have seen Microsoft become increasingly more arrogant and unconcerned
for the benefit of
its customer base, including consumers and developers.

Instead of competing fairly with its competition, Microsoft has
attempted to use its
dominance to force other companies out of business. An example being
Netscape
Corporation. While Netscape was an early innovator in the graphical web
browser, Microsoft
decided that it needed to dominate the web browser market. Netscape sold
their Navigator
browser for a nominal fee while Microsoft developed Internet Explorer
much after Netscape
became the most popular choice in browsers. Instead of fairly competing
with Netscape
pricing, Microsoft gave away their Internet Explorer browser free of
charge with the
apparent intention of destroying its competitor's paying customer base,
thus causing
serious financial difficulty for Netscape.   This had a detrimental
effect for both the
consumer and developer. The consumer was left with no viable choices in
a web browser.
Microsoft's intention was to eventually control the Internet and its
related services
first by making Internet Explorer the primary way and only way of
accessing the World Wide
Web. Developers experienced problems with Microsoft's non-adherence to
the World Wide Web
Consortium (W3C) standards. Creating web pages was now becoming a
frustrating effort, since
much of the standard coding was not compatible with Microsoft's browser.
This was also a
detriment to the consumer, since it made it difficult or impossible to
access certain web
sites. As the dominance of Internet Explorer increased, many developers
started creating
web pages based on Microsoft's non-standard. The result being that
anyone using a browser
other than Microsoft's Internet Explorer was not able to even access
certain web sites. A

related situation is currently occurring with the new Microsoft XBox
game system. I have
read that Microsoft looses approximately $100 for each XBox system they
sell. They are
essentially selling at a lose to establish a dominance in this field
with the intention of
eventually driving out their competition.

I've seen instances where Microsoft has attempted to discredit a
competitor's existing
product with the intention of replacing that product with their own not
yet developed or
perfected inferior alternative. An example being Sun Microsystem's Java
programming
language. Microsoft saw that Java had the emerging capability to become
an important
language for developing the next generation of Internet and consumer
electronic software
applications. Their response to this was their ActiveX development
environment. Due to
blatant security oversights and security problems with ActiveX, Java
became the more
popular choice and ActiveX faded away. Microsoft then attempted to
subvert the Java
language by creating their own non-standard or unauthorized extensions
to the Java language.
Their intention was to "splinter" the Java language into many non
compatible versions and
essentially dilute its effectiveness as defacto standard. Since
Microsoft now has a
dominance with their browser, the idea was to get the developer to use
the Microsoft
unauthorized version of Java for web applications in an attempt to
subvert the Sun
Microsystem's version. Even though Microsoft had no alternative to Java
at the time, they
attempted to destroy its usefulness and future potential to the
consumer. Microsoft is
currently attempting to promote their new .NET development environment
as an alternative
to the Java based applications and related Sun Microsystems solutions.
Their .NET however,
is not yet past the beta or testing stages, but Microsoft has been
promoting it for well
over a year. Again, their intention is to use their market dominance to
convince corporate
customers to adopt their nonexistent "solution" over a competitor's
mature alternative.
This has the effect of creating a "let's wait for Microsoft" mentality

in those
responsible for corporate IT spending. The result hurts both Microsoft's competition and
the consumer because innovative solutions and projects are postponed.

An even more serious problem is occurring regarding Microsoft's lack of quality control
and security within their server, email and browser products. There have been numerous
reports in the press of very serious security problems in Microsoft products that could
easily allow a computer system using these products to be accessed by unauthorized
individuals that can destroy corporate, government and military data and even take total
control of a computer system remotely. Microsoft's desire to increase profits by releasing
potentially dangerous software that is not ready for public use, has obvious negative
consequences to our economy and public safety.

It is my opinion that Microsoft needs to be kept from controlling the industry, and appropriate
remedies must be imposed by the court to prevent these anti-competitive and illegal activities
from occurring in the future.

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